

## The Weekly Chronicle.

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WEDNESDAY . . . JANUARY 8, 1873.

The contest in Georgia for the United States Senate lies between Alex. Stephens, Herschel V. Johnson and General Gordon, with the chances in favor of the former. It is said Ben. Hill would not object to six years at Washington.

In a recent speech at Atlanta, Alex. Stephens, Vice President of the late Confederacy, declared that Grant had done nothing, as President, with the Louisiana trouble except what he ought to have done—that is, that he would see that decrees of Federal Courts were executed.

The editor of the *Union and American* who is a candidate for Comptroller, having canvassed the field, concludes that a few more votes would improve his chances for the position, and has resumed his biographical sketches of members of the Legislature. How easy!

The Memphis *Avalanche*, in the following brief paragraph, hits a hard blow at one of the evils of the times—a multiplicity of officers:

"Memphis has six tax-gatherers: State and county tax collector, city tax collector, privilege tax collector, railroad tax collector, postage tax collector, and wharfage tax collector. Why not have the school tax, judgment tax, and interest tax collectors also? It would make things uniform and spread joy over a larger field, as it were."

It is encouraging to hear that Alexander Stephens has hope for the country. He says: "Notwithstanding the result of the late election, notwithstanding the result of the Alabama muddle, and notwithstanding the present Louisiana troubles, the signs of the times bear a less ominous aspect to my mind than they have for the last fifteen years."

An interesting question will probably come before Congress in a few years—that of admitting Utah into the Union as a State. The Mormons are getting very anxious to get rid of the United States officers, and will do anything short of giving up polygamy, in order to be admitted as a State. They will likely find it a "hard road to travel" into the Union with their beloved institution.

We have never had the pleasure of meeting with the venerable editor of the *Jackson Whig and Tribune*. We have known him for years as an editor, and have learned to look upon him in the most favorable light. His paper is one of the oldest and ablest in the Western portion of the State. But he says queer things some times, as well as younger men. If we did not know him to be strictly temperate, we would have believed him drunk on bad whisky, when he wrote the following:

We see, in connection with this matter of the meeting of the Legislature, that a number of the corrupt and effete politicians of East Tennessee propose to visit Nashville at the commencement of the session. These men never go anywhere or do anything without a purpose. Who can now foretell the possible combinations which may be formed in politics?

We can't imagine who he means, unless it be Reeves, of the *Sentinel and Reporter*.

Missouri is the scene of some political excitement now, growing out of a Senatorial election to choose Frank P. Blair's successor in the United States Senate. Frank wants to be his own successor, and to bring this about he is writing letters and attempting to explain a somewhat troublesome record. He first authorized a friend to deny that he ever voted in Congress for the confiscation act of 1862. Now, after thinking about it, he remembers that he *did* vote for said act. He is down on his knees to his Confederate friends, telling them that he did it, but he "won't do it any more." What the result will be no one can tell. One thing is very certain, and that is the country will lose very little if Frank is left "out in the cold."

The State Teachers' Association will hold a meeting in Nashville in a few days, and we trust it may be largely attended. There has never been a time when the teachers and friends of education in Tennessee have had so much to encourage them. Public opinion has reached that point which forces decisive action on the subject of education. We have hopes that the Legislature assembling on Monday will take liberal and advanced views on the question, and that the members will listen gladly to suggestions from those who have given many years to studying the question of free school education in all its bearings. Every friend of education in the State, whose observation and experience has led him to put the question in a practical shape, should bring his or her influence to bear on the Legislature just assembling. The free school question has reached a crisis, and while every indication points to an early and favorable solution, the friends of the cause should bestir themselves, and leave nothing undone that will contribute to success.

## THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW.

Time rolls on, and again we stand on the threshold of a New Year. In the passion of our age our impulse is to look only forward to the possibilities of the New Year and to forget the past. We incline to press into the future, to take in advance, if possible, what the New Year has for us, rather than to make this a day for a calm look over the old.

Measured by the incidents that usually make the years conspicuous in history, the one just ended has not been remarkable. It bears on its record no great revolutions in governments, none of the honors of war, nothing wonderful in the achievements of science, nothing in these respects to make it more prominent than many others of the eighteen hundred and seventy-one that preceded it into the great waste of the past. In the list of the great men of our land, who have been carried away on its bosom it must be noted. In men whose names are familiar in the legislation and politics of our land, it bears on its death roll such names as Seward, Randall, Davis and Grimes. The men whose names have been on every lip, who have, through the pen and press, spoken daily to hundreds of thousands are Greeley and Bennett—foremost in their calling in the great army of workers who do so much towards moulding the public sentiment of the day. When the great heart of the people of the North and South were molten like lava in the heat of civil war, there were names written in them that time alone can erase. With the old year have gone Mead and Halleck on the one side and Ewell on the other.

The reader of the *CHRONICLE* who studies this morning the news of yesterday from Paris or London or Berlin will not forget a Morse who first taught the electric current to speak through thousands of miles of space. In literature, the old year has borne off some of our greatest. Lieber, Buchanan Read, Hadley, Putnam and "Fanny Fern" are names forever to be associated with the year that took them to their long, last home. In the ranks of the Ministry, such valiant leaders as Cartwright, Vinson, Eastman and Spalding have written their names among the dead of 1872. In its death-roll at least, the old year has a prominent place in the long calendar of the past.

Before us is a new year with its promises and its uncertainties. It can not be full of the contention and party strife of the old and therefore may bring us, as a State, more fraternity and prosperity. We can make it so if we will. There is work for all to do and nothing tends to make it so easy of accomplishment as a firm resolve that it shall be done.

We need public schools that shall make education free to all. We need more population to lessen the burdens now resting upon us and to lend us busy hands to make the future of Tennessee what we all wish it to be. We need better public roads, more national spirit, more progressive liberal legislation, and all this, 1873 will bring us as a people if we but say it must.

In the beginning of the annual journey, when all hearts are warmed with higher aspirations and nobler resolves, with our backs upon the past and our hopes bright for the future the *CHRONICLE* extends to one and all its sincere wishes for a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

## HOW CLIMATES CHANGE.

We have heard men of observation and age frequently comment upon changes in the climate of their homes made within their recollection. Such statements are accepted by many as ridiculous but the fact is, changes, and marked ones at that, do occur. Climate is affected by changes in the country. Streams dry up, forests are cut down, cities spring into existence and the whole face of the country changes. Why should not such changes affect climate? On this subject an exchange offers the following illustrations:

Two thousand years ago the climate of Italy was far colder than now. The Loire and Rhone, in ancient Gaul, used to freeze over annually. Juvenal says the Tiber froze so firmly in his day that the ice had to be cut to get at the water. Horace indicates the presence of ice and snow in the streets of Rome, and Ovid asserts that the Black Sea freezes over every year.

So extreme was the cold at that far-off period in history, that it stands chronicled, by the ancients that in Gaul, Germany, Pannonia and Thrace, snow positively covered the ground so long as to prevent the cultivation of olives, grapes and other fruits, which are raised there at the present time in abundance. Ice or snow, to any considerable amount, would now be a phenomenon in Italy.

THE KNOXVILLE *CHRONICLE* says there is to be a scheme for the lobbying through a law to pay Torbett money, or new issue. Of course no such bill will be passed. If we are legally bound for it, then we must pay it, but it is a matter for the courts to settle—*Tobacco Leaf*.

Just what we say. If we are "legally bound for it, then we must pay it," but we are not legally bound. Every one who knows anything about it, knows that these notes were issued contrary to the principles of the Fourteenth Amendment. The proof may not be made before the courts, but is nevertheless true.

## ABOUT THE CREDIT MOBILIER.

The Credit Mobilier, about which our readers have heard so much, is a corporation that acted in connection with the Union Pacific Railroad. It takes its plan of operations as well as its name from a similar company founded in Paris about twenty years ago, on the principle of limited liability, and sanctioned by the French government. The Paris company was a joint stock affair, its shares being made payable to bearer, and its capital was 60,000,000 francs, and after the complete issue of this capital it was authorized to issue its bonds for ten times this amount. It was founded for the transaction of a general banking business, and its professed object was to aid in constructing public works, promote the development of national industry and consolidate into a complete stock the shares and bonds of trading companies. The American Credit Mobilier was founded upon the same general idea. The exact privileges or limitations of its charter we do not know. The powers granted are doubtless as extensive as its ambitious and liberal founders could obtain from an accommodating Pennsylvania legislature. Its first great enterprise was the building of the Union Pacific Railroad. Of course, as many of the prominent men in that enterprise were also among the stockholders of the Credit Mobilier, it was easy to secure favorable contracts. Taking the government bonds allowed for each mile of road, and the other resources of the Union Pacific Road, it was easy for the Credit Mobilier managers to calculate upon large profits in the construction of the road. If they could give assurances that dividends would speedily amount to one hundred per cent., it was an attractive stock to hold. Favorable legislation for the Pacific Road by Congress would of course be to the advantage of the Credit Mobilier.

For this reason, so much concern has been felt to learn the exact nature of the interest which it is alleged prominent legislators at Washington had in that company. Our readers can see from this explanation how essential it is that a full and fearless investigation should be had.

## HOW TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENT.

The proposition to change the mode of electing a President brings before the people some valuable facts relating to the present plan. The original purpose in investing electors with the privilege of choosing a President and Vice President was to make them deliberative bodies with the right to choose those high offices from the body of the people. They balloted for two persons—the one receiving the highest vote was chosen President and the second Vice President. But when it was demonstrated that those electors were mere registering agents for the popular vote objections began to be made. The only serious question involved in this matter grows out of the rights and interests of the smaller States. As the law now stands a great minority of the people may elect a President. This power of the minority in the government is again illustrated in the composition of the Senate. Eight of the largest States in the Union contain an actual majority of the people of the United States, yet they have sixteen Senators, while the minority have fifty-eight. This is a great disproportion. There is added to the electoral vote of each of the States two electors, representing the two Senators in Congress. These were added as a concession to the smaller States, and adds to their weight in the government. If these two electors were stricken from the vote of each State, and the vote was still taken by States, a minority might yet elect a President. Eight of the largest States, with Maine, have a population of 21,175,450, and yet they can not elect a President over the smaller States, that have a population of but 13,029,503.

In connection with these facts it is well worth while, in view of the death of Horace Greeley, to think what dangers might befall the government through the death of a successful candidate for President between the time of the election and the meeting of the electors of the different States. All these facts considered, it is well worth the time of the people and of Congress to consider what under the circumstances is for the best of the nation.

## GENERAL GEORGE H. THOMAS.

Few men have more deservedly won an enduring fame than General George H. Thomas, the hero of Chickamauga. Few men more thoroughly enjoyed the confidence of his army or had the love of his soldiers than "old Pap Thomas." His services to his country have been inestimable. It is proper that now, since his death, the Congress of the United States should perpetuate his memory by a proper statue. It is eminently proper that a request for such a public testimonial should be made by Tennessee's honored Representative in the House of Representatives. Murfreesboro', Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge—scenes of his most heroic exploits—are all on Tennessee soil. Even the gallant Confederates, who so bravely withstood his stubborn onsets, respect and admire General Thomas. Not a slain man upon his fair name. His sword is not dimmed by a single ungallant act. Pile high the monumental shaft! Engrave deep upon it the record of his honors, for Americans everywhere respect and admire the character of the dead hero.

## PUBLIC ROADS.

A correspondent of the Nashville *Banner* suggests that the present plan of working public roads is sufficient, if provisions are made whereby the hands summoned may be compelled to labor while on the road. We do not agree with this correspondent at all. One of the evils of the present lame system is that men, when summoned, merely put in an appearance to avoid the fine. It will be found very difficult to force them to labor. Besides, it is unjust to the class of men who are expected to keep up our roads now, that they should bear the whole burden while there are others as deeply interested as they are, who do not share such a burden. In our opinion, a proper road tax, levied for the improvement of our thoroughfares, will be found much more effective, and it will certainly be nearer justice than the present method. We trust the Legislature now in session will give this important question a careful and thorough investigation.

WITHOUT intending disparagement towards any one of the gentlemen who are aspiring to the comptrollership at Nashville, we trust that the Legislature will be very careful in the selection of this very important officer. He should be chosen with sole reference to his honesty, experience and capacity, laying aside every other consideration. He should be a man in whom the people have confidence and who will industriously labor with an eye single to the welfare of the State. The improvement of our public credit, and the early payment of the interest on our public debt, should be the polar star of his ambition, and before this purpose all other considerations should sink. A feeling prevails, at home as well as abroad, that Tennessee may at some time repudiate her obligations. Nothing would do more to dispel this disgraceful suspicion which very naturally attaches to us, than the selection of an honest, upright, capable man to take charge of our financial interests. Let the Legislature promptly adopt provisions looking to the payment of our debts, and then select a competent officer to execute these provisions, and our credit will improve amazingly in a short time.

WE heard a gentleman say yesterday, whose attention had been directed to the purchase of a lot in that favored portion of our northeastern suburbs, where the Mayor and his associates rejoice in the possession of unimproved property, that one of the reasons used to induce him to purchase, was, that a street would be opened there right away—he knew what he was talking about, &c. The sequel shows that he did know what he was talking about, and only one more year is required to open streets all the way through the property in question. Just one more year, tax payers, and the ring will be "in town," at least, so far as streets are concerned. "Just one more year," and what a soft thing for the ring! No salary required.

By reference to our dispatches it will be seen that neither House of the Legislature effected an organization yesterday. The gentlemen who were voted for on the last ballot in the Senate were Hon. J. M. Coulter, of Gibson, who was a member of the last Senate, Dr. W. P. Jones, a Republican from Davidson county, Col. A. T. Lacey, an Independent Johnson Democrat from Shelby county, and Hon. M. L. McConnell, of Blount county.

Those voted for on the last ballot in the House were Hon. L. C. Houk, of Knox, who, it will be seen, is two votes ahead of his competitor; Hon. J. A. Trousdale, a Cheatham Democrat member of the last House, of Sumner; Col. John S. Kerr, Johnson Democrat, Floater, from Shelby and Fayette; Philip Lindsay, Independent, of Davidson, and Mr. Bond, who is also a Cheatham Democrat.

If our city fathers will only itemize their account of money expended for street improvements, and show on what particular streets it was expended, giving the exact amount expended on each street for the past three years, it is believed by a great many tax payers that the reason why one of the ring wanted to run the city government "just one more year" will be apparent. It will also be seen why the Mayor is able to serve the city without a salary and spend large sums of money to secure his election.

## A Big Thing on Ice.

Bill Kelly, a compositor, who recently left Omaha for Sioux City, returned yesterday, in company with John Henry, another compositor, the two boys having skated some of the distance from Sioux City down the Missouri river. They left that place Sunday morning about half-past six o'clock, and skated all day, laying over night at a section house of the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad. Next morning they resumed their trip at day light, arriving at Missouri Valley Junction about 4 o'clock Monday afternoon, a distance, by the river, of about 200 miles from the starting point. During their travels Kelly froze both ears, his cheek, of which he has plenty, and one heel; while Henry escaped with two frozen ears. This is probably one of the most remarkable and perilous skating feats ever undertaken in this country. The boys are to-day sticking type in the *Dec* office, and it will probably be some time before they undertake another similar spin on the ice.—*Omaha Bee*.

## MILLEDGEVILLE (GEORGIA) LETTER.

Delicious Climate—Peaceful Elections—Voters of Various Colors—Lively Trade, &c., &c.  
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA., Jan. 3, 1873.  
I pray that you may be enjoying in Knoxville to-day the soft blue sky, the balmy atmosphere, the songs of wild birds, and all the accompaniments of early Spring, which we are blessed with here. Yet, we have had winter—rigorous winter, for us, with the stiffened mercury down to 12 degrees of Fahrenheit, and ice even plentiful than blackberries, and huge-fires of the Anderson county coal at a premium.

Our county elections passed off, on the 1st instant, very harmoniously, everybody voting who were entitled to do so, without dispute or ill feeling. Considering that our colored brethren have about two votes to one of the pale-faced race, and that we have only one voting precinct in the county, a little bragging on our good behavior is admirable. All of the elected officers are Democrats; and National politics seemed to be ignored in the election.

The trade of Milledgeville has been more lively during the present season than at any time since the war. Our little city, situated at a railway cross-roads, occupies an admirable position in the midst of a fine cotton-growing country. We have here, also, a very large cotton manufactory. Our business prospects were never finer, the cotton crop having been large and the prices remunerative. On these two circumstances hang all "the law and profits" of our prosperity.

We hear much gratification expressed here by parties who are using the Coal Creek coal this season for the first time. It is found to be more economical and satisfactory than wood, and yet expenses of transportation are enormous. A ton of coal on the cars, at the mines, costs \$2.50; delivered here in our coal house, it costs \$10.00. Transportation costs three times as much as the coal. Yet the cost of wood redly to put on the fire is about \$5 per cord; and one ton of coal is worth more for its practical utility than two cords of wood. If freights could be reduced a little, the use of coal would become general.

The horse and mule market offers a good field for dealers just now. Col. Johnson, of Kentucky, has some fine animals here, but "competition is the life of trade."

The provision market is quite lively. Corn is worth here, by retail, \$1.15 per bushel; meal, \$1.25; flour, best article, \$12 per bbl.; bacon—hams, 18 cts. per lb.; shoulders, 7c.; sides, 9c. Mules, \$100 to \$250 each, according to quality; average about \$175.

The health of this region was never better; and, in fact, we have one of the very finest climates in the world.

Our very large brick hotel was burned a few weeks since, but the indefatigable McComb brothers, skillful and practiced hotel keepers, have thoroughly repaired and refitted the old McComb hotel building, and will open the house for guests next Monday. This house has about sixty rooms, and will be better kept than was the hotel recently destroyed.

We spent last Sabbath in Savannah and had the pleasure of meeting there some old Knoxville friends of *ante bellum* days: Mr. Henry Elliott, and Mr. S. P. Hamilton, the jeweler, the latter having the handsomest jewelry store in the city. We looked after our old and esteemed friend, John Triplett, once of Morgan county, but he had gone into the country for a few days, and we failed to see him.

We were recently at St. Mary's, the sea-coast terminus of the St. Mary's and Western Railway. The interests of this undertaking are in a satisfactory shape, and the President of the Company, once a citizen of your city, is actively engaged in this enterprise, and in another railway project entrusted to his hands—the Seaboard and North Western, of which Company he is also the President. St. Mary's is a beautiful little city, enjoying the finest climate in Georgia, in summer and in winter, abounding at this season with the finest oysters and fish of all sorts, and blessed with at least one hotel (the Spencer House) where the traveler will find a real home. Many Northern guests are now at St. Mary's, to escape the rigor of the Northern climate.

## Ohio Agricultural College.

Governor Noyes, of Ohio, in his message to the Legislature of that State, makes the following suggestions relative to the Agricultural College:

The Agricultural College will, at no distant day, be ready for the admission of students. Generous provision has been made for it, but the fostering care of the State, whose child it is, will be required for some years to come. It is expected that the State will extend the same liberality to this that she does to her charitable institutions. The Agricultural and Mechanical College should be something more than a model farm, illustrating the art of cultivating the soil, and the methods of improving breeds of stock. If this shall be the limit of its ambition, few young men will resort to it, and these, it is feared, without great profit. Its foundations should be laid broad and deep, and within its walls should be taught the principles which underlie all the industrial, and liberal and ornamental arts. Its curriculum should be so extended that young men may there be educated for all the ordinary walks of life. If it shall be dedicated under a generous system, and conducted in the right way, it will soon attract donations from liberal and public spirited men—will be an honor to Ohio and a blessing to our people. If we fix a low standard, and are content with small results, it were better that the people's money were expended in some other and more profitable way. It is not, of course, expected that the College shall be, when it opens, all that we hope for it finally; it is not likely that all its departments will at once be put in successful operation. But let it be started with the intention of making it ultimately, a grand State University, whose instructions shall be thorough and comprehensive.

Pinebeek threatens to disperse the fusion Legislature, which causes excitement. Business, it was thought, would be suspended yesterday. The committee of Two Hundred have issued an address, giving the result of their visit to Washington. Stokes was found guilty of murder in the first degree, on Saturday night.